



MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

BULLETIN NO: 03-01

Date: February 9, 2001

SUBJECT: ILLEGAL FREIGHT & PASSENGERS FOR HIRE

Based on recent information it is believed that illegal operations may be occurring, particularly in the ports of Bridgeport and New Haven. This information is provided to you as potential solicitors of passenger & freight "For Hire" vessels. Please do your utmost to ensure that the vessels you hire are complying with the federal regulations. If you suspect a vessel is not in full compliance, please notify Group/MSO Long Island Sound on Ch. 16 or at (203) 468-4401. (24 hr)

An owner, charterer, managing operator, agent, master, or individual in charge of a vessel operated in violation of any laws or regulations may be liable for civil penalties of up to \$27,500 per day.

All commercial vessels "For Hire" must be in compliance with the regulations including Drug and Alcohol testing, safety equipment required by 46 CFR Subchapter "C." The operator of the vessel MUST hold a Coast Guard license authorizing service on the type of vessel and route.

PASSENGERS FOR HIRE

Vessels required to be inspected:

- Under 100 Gross Tons carrying more than 6 passengers, at least one of which is "For Hire".
- Over 100 Gross Tons carrying more than 12 passengers, at least one of which is "For Hire".

FREIGHT FOR HIRE

Self-propelled vessels required to be inspected:

- Over 15 Gross Tons carrying freight "For Hire".

Any vessel carrying passengers or freight "For Hire" is operating as a commercial vessel. If the vessel is over 5 Net Tons, it is REQUIRED to have a Coast Guard Certificate of Documentation with a "Coastwise" endorsement (As a general rule of thumb, vessels 30 ft and greater are over 5 net tons). This includes towing, fishing & pilot vessels.

This bulletin does not contain the full regulations. If you have questions, please contact Lieutenant Commander P.J. Maguire or Lieutenant Tim Dickerson at (203) 468-4501.

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Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection